

20734

December 26, 1966

Dr. Robert H. Bahmer
Archivist of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bahmer:

Almost two months ago, immediately following the Acting Attorney General's order of October 31, I asked you and subsequently Mr. Marion Johnson for access to and two copies of the FBI spectrographic analysis of the bullet and the fragments of bullets considered by the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy. To date, this has not been granted, presumably because, despite the order, you do not have it.

I am writing to renew this request and to record others.

On that occasion, Mr. Johnson informed me that Mr. Cunningham of the FBI said this document is included in one of the Gemberling reports. I showed Mr. Johnson this is not the case and I further showed him the testimony of Special Agent Robert Frazier, that this spectrographic analysis was considered by the Commission and was part of the permanent files of the FBI. It thus is covered by the order.

Earlier I had asked for access to all of the test bullets as well. These also are in the possession of the government and should, therefore, now be in your archive and available, as should the bullet Exhibit 399 and the fragments recovered from the bodies of the President and Governor.

Your letter of November 28, 1966, confirms another violation of the order of the Acting Attorney General. The two original copies of the Zapruder film given the Secret Service should be in the archive, and should have been prior to your letter. One of these is the actual Exhibit 904, not the copy made by the FBI, and it should be in the archive for this additional reason, that it is, in fact, the official exhibit.

With the damage to the FBI copy, has the Archives appropriations from which copies can be made for the use of researchers? If not, may I arrange for this privately? The copy should not be made from the FBI copy but from the original, if Life is willing, or from one of the government copies. I should also like to ask if it is within your capability to have slides made from those frames that were not provided in 35-mm. form by Life. If not, may I undertake to have this done for the Archives, for these slides to be part of the archive and available to all researchers?

Now that the Zapruder camera is in government possession, may I examine it?

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Given to Secret Service Agent Adrian G. Vial at 3 p.m. November 23, 1963, is the original of a paper Lt. Francis L. Martello of the New Orleans police got from Lee Harvey Oswald when he was arrested in New Orleans. Martello also subsequently gave the government copies of a copy he had made. In the record, one of these copies is Exhibit 827. Under the order of the Acting Attorney General, this original should now be in your possession. I should like to have two Xeroxed copies of it, not the copy that was used in Exhibit 827 or in Document 1553.

Document 1553 refers to a photograph of the principals of what I have called the story of the False Oswald given to the FBI by one of them. It also should now be in your possession and I should like to have two 8x10 prints of it, or of each if there is more than one. This same file refers to pictures of the principals shown Mrs. Sylvia Odio and her sister, of which I should also like two copies of each. These pictures, in the possession of the FBI, should also now be in your possession. In Document 1546 there are references to the arrest of two of these men in Dallas before the assassination and to the records of this arrest in the Dallas FBI office. There is also reference to inquiry of the Dallas police about this arrest, including the taking of pictures, the posting of bail and the ultimate dismissal of the case. If, as it should have been, all of this information has now been transferred to the archive, I should like to have two copies of each item, for it also comes within the Acting Attorney General's order.

Earlier I requested access to the original notes of the autopsy. Search of the duplicate files of Document 371 revealed these notes were not then there. Now that these autopsy notes are required to be in your possession under this same order, I should like two Xeroxed copies of them.

Exhibit 749 consists of a negative and a print made from it. I should like to get two 8x10 prints made from this negative. Several pictures were made from Exhibit 133A. I should like to get two 8x10 prints of the clearest of Exhibit 133A or one of these exhibits made from it.

I should like also to get two Xeroxed copies each of Exhibits Nos. 2943 and 3108 and any others relating to the same subject matter, interviews with Father McChann and others about the activities of a man variously identified as a Colonel Caster, Castor, and Castorr, and of the Cuban refugee groups in Dallas and their relations with General Edwin Walker, his associates and others of the so-called "radical right".

I should also like one copy each of Exhibits 347 and 354.

If there is anywhere in the archive a list of the photographers or photographers who took photographs of the assassination or the scene of the assassination at approximately the time of the assassination, whether or not they show the actual assassination, I should like very much to have a copy of it.

In speaking to Mr. Simmons the other day I asked him for a copy of a communication of the Baltimore FBI agents who attended the autopsy referred to in Document 5 as a communication of November 23, 1963. I should like to broaden this request to include any and all available reports on this subject made by these agents (O'Neill and Sibert) or any associates on this subject.

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Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 for an additional deposit to my account to cover costs.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg